

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

The changes that are being proposed are an outrage. The resultant consolidation in the media would be intolerable and a definite threat to the functioning of a viable democracy. We have to have real public hearings and a real debate. These issues are of immense importance yet the public is for all intents and purposes shut out of the process because the knowledge of the process has not been publicized nor is there any coverage in the broadcast media who incidentally are the main beneficiaries and proponents of the proposed changes.

The consolidation within the media is already past the bounds where democracy is served. These few giantic corporations subordinate public interest to the needs of profits. Entertainment becomes fused with the news because of its ability to draw viewers and its cost effectiveness. The news we do get is tilted toward the establishment and at best sounds nothing much more than a government mouthpiece and at worst sounds like the Soviet controlled 'Tass' although with flashier graphics and slick model-like spokesmen(women). What we are left with is a public that is spoon feed second rate news that is bereft of detail, content and substance.

The changes that are being proposed would further entrench and solidify this corrupt system with the public interest being sold out to corporate lobbyists and private profits. In no way can such a system be deemed conducive to a healthy democracy.

The FCC is entrusted to insure the media system acts in and on behalf of the public interest. Mr. Powell has stated that he had no clue what the public interest was or if it even existed. Mr. Powell needs to learn what the public is. If he cannot he should step down. In turn, the FCC should de-politize itself, throw out the lobbyists, and rededicate its to fulfilling its mandated function. It can start by withdrawing these deplorable changes.